

Application No. 09/689,279
Amendment dated October 7, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 7, 2003

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-9, 17-19, 42-44, and 77-87 are pending, and are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth below.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication in the Office Action that claims 7-8 and 17-19 are allowed.

Support for the foregoing claim amendments and new claims 77-87 can be found throughout the original specification, for example, at page 17, line 22, to page 19, line 18, and in Figs. 3 and 6. Entry and consideration of the amendments and new claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 9 and 42-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, Mattelmaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,149,448).

The Examiner has rejected claims 9 and 42-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Baird et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,470,472).

The Examiner has rejected claims 9 and 42-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as obvious, over Martensson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,968,372).

The Examiner has rejected claims 9 and 42-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Larsson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,759,397).

The Examiner has rejected claims 9 and 42-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over French Patent No. 1,165,054.

Mattelmaki describes the use of water jet nozzles 20, 22 for breaking up a precoat 26 and cleaning a filter cloth 8 (see Fig. 1 and column 3, lines 14-25). Baird et al. describes forming a liquid jet from water jet nozzles 150 to disperse a portion of a filter cake (see Fig. 7 and column 7, lines 35-38). Martensson et al. describes the use of nozzles 72, 74 for supplying a washing fluid to wash and remove filter cake material from a filter drum 84 (see column 4, lines 28-67). Larsson et al. describes the use of a spray nozzle 32 for spraying water to remove filter medium from a drum 24 (see column 4, lines 27-50, particularly lines 41-42). French Patent No. 1,165,054 describes the use of an atomizer 27 for atomizing water to wash filtrated solids before they are scraped off. French Patent No. 1,165,054 also describes a nozzle 15 for spraying an additive, not a filtration medium, for continuous filtration. None of the cited references alone or in combination discloses or suggests a filter as claimed in amended claim 9, that includes, at least, a nozzle that is capable of combining pressurized gas from a pressurized gas conduit with a filter medium slurry from a pressurized filter medium conduit.

With respect to independent claims 42, 43, and 44, none of the cited references discloses or suggests the use of first and second rotating drum filters, as set forth in each of these independent claims. Each of the cited references describes only a single-drum filter; there is no teaching for a second rotating drum pressure differential filter. Furthermore, none of the cited references teach or suggest a conveyor for conveying medium from a first rotating drum filter to a second rotating drum filter.

Application No. 09/689,279
Amendment dated October 7, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 7, 2003

With respect to new claims 86 and 87, that specifically recite a filter medium slurry disposed within the pressurized filter medium conduit, such a rotating drum pressure differential filter is neither taught nor suggested by any of the cited art, alone or in any combination.

Withdrawal of the rejections in light of the above remarks is requested and in order. Allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

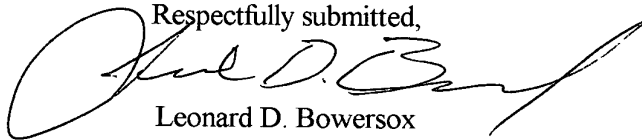
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the present application and a timely allowance of the pending claims.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by Applicants or Applicants' undersigned representative is desirable and/or necessary, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number set forth below.

Should any fees be necessary in connection with this filing, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to deposit Account No. 50-0925. Should an extension of time be due, the Commissioner is requested to hereby consider this a Petition and charge the appropriate extension of time fee to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Leonard D. Bowersox
Reg. No. 33,226

Attorney Docket No.: 5070-006
KILYK & BOWERSOX, P.L.L.C.
3603-E Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Tel.: (703) 385-9688
Fax.: (703) 385-9719
LDB/SPB:adb+